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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Nationalization of Cemetery
 Lots in Rumania.

DATE DISTR. 4 OCT 50

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PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT OF U.S.C. 1831 AND 2385, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY THE LAWS, REGULATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY AS PROHIBITED

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1. An order of the Rumanian Council of Ministers now requires that titles to cemetery lots be verified and taxes paid thereon. This order establishes a verification committee which is charged with the following responsibilities:
 - a. Search the title of each cemetery lot.
 - b. Fix the total amount of taxes owned to the state, as is done with all other land holdings, and calculate the balance of taxes due.
 - c. Fix the amount of the taxes due on each lot.
 - d. Nationalize those lots or vaults owned by individuals (dead or alive) whose conduct has not been democratic, and those lots or vaults whose owners cannot pay the taxes.
2. At each village cemetery a notifying office to establish titles to lots has been set up. These titles are established in the names of heirs of deceased persons who had bought lots.
3. Every claimant must furnish evidence of ownership of lots, which generally cannot be accomplished since the lot often was purchased by a relative now deceased and the documents have not been handed down to their descendants, or the document, if it exists, is merely a receipt stating that the purchase had been entered in cemetery records. If proof of ownership cannot be produced the heir loses all claim on the lot.
4. Persons who are able to produce documentary evidence of ownership are then required to produce the receipt for taxes paid at time of purchase. A majority of lot owners cannot produce such receipts. If the owner wishes to keep the lot he must pay all taxes due at time of purchase and produce a receipt showing such payment. The owner cannot simply renounce ownership and refuse to pay the taxes. Such action would render him liable to prosecution for non-payment of taxes legally due the state.
5. Persons establishing their ownership of lots must also pay inheritance taxes, which involves payment of this tax for each ancestor through whom ownership has passed to the present owner. These inheritance taxes are high, especially if there is a vault on the lot.

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6. Owners are likewise required to produce receipts showing payment of yearly taxes. Since yearly taxes on cemetery lots are in innovation of the Communist regime, tax rates for earlier years must be established. Owners are required to pay this annual tax for each year from time of original purchase.
7. When owners are unable to prove title and the lots or vaults are nationalized, the remains of the deceased are removed and consigned to a common grave.

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